

9 authorizing playback of the first digital audio content with the first set of playback
10 devices.

1 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 storing the first license in second digital audio content; and
3 authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the first set of
4 playback devices.

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1 3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the
3 license management device;
4 storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second
5 set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and
6 further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;
7 storing the second license in second digital audio content;
8 authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the second set of
9 playback devices.

1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of
2 playback devices comprises at least one [is a] hardware playback device.

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1 8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of
2 playback devices comprises at least one [is a] software player.

(Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice)

1 10. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first digital audio content
2 further comprises [is audio/visual] video digital programming.

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1 11. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences
2 of instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause [the] one or more
3 electronic systems [processors] to:
4 create a first license with a license management device, the first license having a
5 first cardinality;
6 store the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a command
7 from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback devices is
8 determined based, at least in part, on the first cardinality;
9 store the first license in first digital audio content; and
10 authorize playback of the first digital audio content with the first set of playback
11 devices.

1 12. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising
2 sequences of instructions that when executed cause the one or more electronic systems
3 [processors] to:
4 store the first license in second digital audio content; and

5 authorize playback of the second digital audio content with the first set of
6 playback devices.

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1 13. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising
2 sequences of instructions that when executed cause the one or more electronic systems
3 [processors] to:
4 create a second license in the license management device, the second license
5 having a second cardinality;
6 store the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second
7 set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and
8 further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;
9 store the second license in second digital audio content;
10 authorize playback of the second digital audio content with the second set of
11 playback devices.

1 17. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least
2 one of the first set of playback devices comprises at least one [is a] hardware playback
3 device.

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1 18. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least
2 one of the first set of playback devices comprises at least one [is a] software player.

(Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice.)

1 20. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the first
2 digital audio content further comprises [is audio/visual] digital video programming.

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1 21. (Amended) An apparatus for digital license management, the apparatus
2 comprising:
3 means for creating a first license in a license management device, the first license
4 having a first cardinality;
5 means for storing the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a
6 command from the license management device;
7 means for storing the first license in first digital audio content; and
8 means for authorizing playback of the first digital audio content with the first set
9 of playback devices.

1 22. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:
2 means for storing the first license in second digital audio content; and
3 means for authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the first
4 set of playback devices.

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1 23. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:
2 means for creating a second license in the license management device;

3 means for storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein
4 at least one playback device from the second set of playback devices is included in the
5 first set of playback devices;

6 means for storing the second license in second digital audio content; and

7 means for authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the
8 second set of playback devices.

(Please add the following new claims:)

24. (New) A digital data signal embodied in a data communications medium
shared among a plurality of network devices to provide digital audio programming, the
digital data signal comprising license having a first cardinality, the license having been
created by a license management device, the digital data signal further comprising a first
digital audio content that is at least a subset of the digital audio programming, wherein a
set of playback devices receive the digital data signal and authorize playback of the first
digital audio signal if the license included in the computer data signal matches at least
one license stored in the respective playback devices.

25. (New) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein the cardinality is fixed.,

26. (New) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein the cardinality is
variable.